FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 JUNE 1985

Lebanon

The withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon might be delayed by "1 or 2 weeks," Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin suggested during a speech in Washington cited by Jerusalem radio. He also maintained that the low-key Israeli presence in south Lebanon could extend beyond the several weeks specified by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Meanwhile, Beirut radio stated the Israeli forces ended their "seige" of Majdal Silm, Al-Suwwanah, Tulin, and Qabrikha areas.

The Arab League Secretariat issued a statement that an emergency session will be held in Tunis 7 June to discuss the Palestinian camps issue and that 13 Arab countries have agreed to attend, SPA disclosed. Lebanon will not attend the session, Voice of Lebanon radio confirmed.

As for the results of the Damascus summit, *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* sources revealed that a Syrian-Lebanese joint security organ will be established with Syrian Army units available to support the Lebanese Army, which is to merge its 5th, 6th, 8th, and 11th Brigades into one unit in a move to abolish sectarianism. In Beirut, the Museum crossing point was reopened after temporary closure due to sniper fire, and "relative calm" continued in the Palestinian camps, according to Beirut radio. The Amal movement released about 30 Palestinians detained in Burj al-Murr on 4 June, the radio added. However, clashes erupted on the Kafr Falus-'Ayn al-Mir-Lib'a front between gunmen and the army of southern Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio stated adding that there are "huge concentrations" of gunmen and vehicles in the Al-Salihiyah area east of Sidon.

Sudan

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told Transitional Military Council (TMC) Chairman 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab that no Sudanese political exiles remained in Libya and revealed secret Libyan weapons caches in Khartoum, according to comments made by Sudanese Deputy Prime Minister Samuel Aru Bol during his visit to Cairo as disclosed by *AL-BAYAN* 4 June. The Sudanese Government found and emptied some of the caches. Al-Qadhdhafi also confirmed that he "completely ended any support" to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in the south. Regarding Egypt, Aru Bol related that although the joint defense agreement remains valid, the integration agreement is "suspended temporarily." MENA reported that the deputy prime minister claimed that he did not discuss the integration issue during his Cairo meetings because integration is based on two points: relations, over which there is "absolutely no argument;" and aspects of former President Ja'far Numayri's viewpoints, which must be "corrected." In other developments, the Sudanese attorney general stated that five committees have been established to investigate officers from the dissolved state security organization, SUNA noted. The TMC dismissed all security service members June 4, the agency added.

Iran-Iraq

"Considerable technical advances in the air defense missile system" have enhanced Iranian defense capability, the Air Force commander stated in an interview cited by Tehran radio. Mentioning the missile fired at an Iraqi aircraft 3 June, he acknowledged the successful launching of a SAM. As for the latest Iraqi air raids on Iran, IRNA reported that Iraq bombed Tabriz but failed to raid Esfahan because of heavy antiaircraft fire 4 June, while Tehran radio announced nine casualties from an early morning raid on Tehran 5 June.

Syria-Iraq

Citing a "responsible source," Damascus radio countered the 2 June INA report that a truck discovered inside the Iraqi border was boobytrapped by Syria. The Syrian Government denied the report as a "fabrication" to justify Iraqi "crimes and sabotage operations."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Counterrevolutionaries Receive Death Sentence

LD041808 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1545 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] Today, in an open session in Kabul city, a judicial panel of the special revolutionary court sentenced to death three criminals belonging to the counterrevolutionary bands which, on the order of the U.S. imperialism and reaction of the region, have committed numerous crimes in our beloved homeland.

In today's court these criminals — who had lessons in terror, intimidation, and plunder in the military camps of rebels on Pakistani territory — confessed before hundreds of the representatives of Kabul citizens and exposed the savage actions of their imperialist masters.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that these criminals — Muhammad Tahir, son of Muhammad Zaman; Sayid Arif, son of Sayid Agha; and Ramadan, son of Ghulam Haydar — who had been arrested one after another as a result of efforts by the heroic security forces of the country, clearly confessed to numerous crimes and offenses, including exploding a bomb in Microrayon market; an armed attack on Bagrami and Beni Hesar livestock farms; setting fire to schools; kidnapping children, men, and women; and plundering property from houses and shops in various parts of Kabul city.

Muhammad Tahir, who was leading a 20-strong murderer band exported from outside, once again before the court confessed that he had delivered one bomb and 50,000 afghanis in cash to his accomplice Sayid Arif so he could explode the bomb in Microrayon market. Sayid Arif clearly confessed to this criminal act, as a result of which a number of innocent children and women were killed, several others were wounded, and a number of shops were set on fire.

These criminals have confessed in their investigation papers that they have prevented people from entering a mosque for saying their prayers and have imprisoned a number of innocent people there.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that during this open session the DRA's special revolutionary prosecutor read out the numerous crimes and offenses committed by these criminals; after which the defendents were allowed to present their defense in a completely free and democratic atmosphere.

After hearing charges from the prosecutor attributed to these criminals and the defense of the accused, the judicial panel of the special revolutionary court sentenced the three to death with consideration of the crimes committed, their civil circumstances, and their confession to committing crimes in the homeland in accordance with the current laws of the DRA.

The decision of the court regarding the execution of these criminals will be carried out after the approval of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

SPA: Soviets Mass Troops in Konarha Valley

GF041412 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] Islamabad, 4 Jun (SPA) — Western diplomats in Islamabad said today the Soviets have massed their forces to launch a major offensive against the Afghan mujahidin stationed in the Konarha Valley adjacent to Pakistan's western border. The sources said massive numbers of Soviet and Afghan troops were airlifted to Jalalabad airport near the valley on 27 May for the expected offensive. The sources said the major Soviet aim of this large operation is to break the 1-year siege the mujahidin have imposed on the Afghan stronghold at Barikowt. Quoting informed Afghan sources in Kabul, the diplomats said the forces which have been massed so far to take part in this allout offensive total 4,000 soldiers. Other sources said earlier that these forces are 10,000. The diplomats emphasized that the Soviet forces are now only 30 km away from the town of Barikowt where the besieged forces are located.

SPA: Afghan Mujahidin Destroy Soviet Aircraft

GF041950 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] London, 4 Jun (SPA) — The Afghan mujahidin launched an attack on Shindand air base in Herat Province on 13 May, destroying two Soviet MIG's, three helicopters, seven tanks, and an ammunition dump. The Afghan Press Agency said that the mujahidin used missiles in their attack against the air base and that their forces returned safely without any losses.

Voice of Islamic Revolution on Mujahidin Actions

GF040544 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] According to reports received from reliable sources of our mujahidin Muslim brothers at the battlefront of good against evil, our mujahidin brothers killed 22 Soviet-Karmal soldiers in five regions of Herat Province. They also destroyed several enemy tanks and trucks. The sources indicate that in these operations 18 government soldiers, who became disenchanted with the enemy, defected to the mujahidin, bringing along their arms.

According to another report from Badghis Province, 26 defenseless villagers were killed in a savage bombardment by nine Soviet helicopter gunships on villages in this province. Meanwhile, the brave mujahidin in an operation in Qal'eh-ye Now, the capital of Badghis Province, captured five members of pro-Karmal regime groups.

In another surprise attack during the past month along the Kabul-Herat highway, the mujahidin killed three mercenary soldiers. Another report indicates that one enemy tank and its crew blew up when it hit a mine in the (Kamar Qalat) region. Recently a column of Soviet-Karmal soldiers which planned to surround Mujahidin positions in Jaji was attacked by the mujahidin in (Sikandar Khel) and prevented from carrying out Soviet plans there.

Gandhi Departs for Egypt, Algeria, France, U.S.

BK050341 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, left New Delhi for Cairo on the first leg of his 4-nation tour. He will also visit Algeria, France, and the United States. Before returning home, Mr Gandhi will address the International Labor Organization in Geneva. His cabinet colleagues, members of parliament and diplomatic corps, mayor of Delhi, and other dignitaries gave the prime minister a warm send-off as he boarded the special Air India plane, *Annapurna*. Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Gandhi said that his visit to America is to forge closer ties between India and the United States. Disarmament, world tension are to come up during his discussions with President Reagan. In reply to a question, Mr Gandhi said he is not going to the United States for any arms aid from that country. The prime minister said India has a lot in common with France.

The prime minister's main engagement in Cairo is to hold talks with President Mubarak of Egypt. There will be further talks between the delegations of the two countries tomorrow. Mr Gandhi will also address a news conference before leaving for Paris. In an interview with an Egyptian daily, the prime minister said that India and Egypt have excellent relations. He said there is wide scope for further increase in trade relations and cultural exchanges between the two countries. He offered to share India's advanced technology with Egypt and other friendly countries. Mr Gandhi said he will discuss the question of ending the Iran-Iraq war and other international issues with President Husni Mubarak. He is hopeful that the exchange of ideas in Cairo may help in ending the 54-month-old war. The Nonaligned Movement is working with other groups and countries to bring the two warring nations to the negotiation table.

About peace initiatives in West Asia, Mr Gandhi described the agreement between King Husayn and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and the subsequent call by President Mubarak for a dialogue between the U.S. and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as very good development. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the recent South Asian Regional Cooperation meeting in Bhutan has gone off well and, with it, a new era in South Asian cooperation has begun.

Gandhi Interviewed on Trips to U.S., France

Interview With U.S. TV

BK041624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] In an interview with an American TV network on the eve of his departure, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said that India can consider signing a nonaggression pact with Pakistan but it must be broad based, covering all aspects. While agreeing that there are a number of areas in which India and the United States can cooperate, he made it clear that he was not going to Washington to ask for anything special. Everything will follow from a better understanding between the two countries, he added. Mr Gandhi said there is no question of India aligning with either of the superpowers. On Indo-Egyptian relations, in a separate interview with the Egyptian television in New Delhi, the prime minister said that a lot more can be done to develop better exchange in trade and culture between the two countries.

Interview With French Press

HK050852 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 5 Jun 85

[By Jean-Francois Leven]

[Text] New Delhi, June 5 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said on the eve of a foreign tour to five countries including the United States and France that India has allies other than Moscow. Mr. Gandhi was speaking in an interview with French journalists yesterday before setting off on a two-week trip which will take him to Egypt, France, Algeria, the United States and Switzerland.

On foreign policy, Mr. Gandhi, who took office hours after his mother Indira was slain on October 31 last year, said that India was very much a non-aligned country, looking both East and West and to its immediate region. He said Moscow had stood by New Delhi in difficult times but was not its sole ally. Mr. Gandhi said Washington was keen to sell India military hardware but added that there were problems.

The prime minister spoke of mixed relations with neighbouring Pakistan and reiterated his worries about Islamabad's nuclear programme. He flatly rejected suggestions that India sought hegemony over the sub-continent.

Mr. Gandhi said relations with France were now back on an even keel after the exposure in January of a spy network which was believed to have led to the departure of a French diplomat here.

India would like to help Sri Lanka solve the crisis triggered by demands from militants among the island's 2.5 million Tamils for a separate state in the north and the east, but wants Colombo to organise a meeting itself with the separatists, he said.

Speaking on domestic politics, Mr. Gandhi advocated more centralisation of power in India's federal System. He said India needed a stronger police force. He charged activists in India's 16-million strong Sikh community with turning a political issue into a religious one and justified India's stiff new anti-terrorist legislation by saying there had been no laws which authorities could use against bombers.

The 40-year-old premier answered the journalists' questions with humour and careful reflection at times. He replied without consulting advisors who also attended the hour-long interview. The following are the main points of the conversation:

"We are very much non-aligned. I won't say we don't look West, we don't look East, but we look West and we look East, and we are also looking specifically to our region. We are non-aligned and we are able to be non-aligned because we don't rely on other people for our development; 90 percent of our development has been internally generated. That has been our strength. Not coming under pressure on particular issues.

"India doesn't vote always with the East Bloc in the U.N. The Soviet Union stood by us at times of difficulties, but it is not our only ally now. We have got a lot of friends — France for example is a good friend."

"The U.S. wants to sell us military hardware. Two problems: Some binding clauses that we don't like. Secondly they are very expensive.

"We condemn all outside interferences. We have condemned the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. Look at the statement we signed in Moscow. In Moscow I don't think we could go further."

(The communique which Mr. Gandhi signed on a visit to Moscow last month, said: "India and the Soviet Union reiterate their opposition to all forms of outside interference in the internal affairs of the countries in South-west Asia").

"Our Relations with Pakistan are mixed. We have very good talks in certain subjects, but at the same time we don't like their nuclear program. Pakistan is very close to having the atomic bomb, if they don't already have it. We made an explosion (in 1974) but we didn't develop the bomb. We would like to keep this non-nuclear policy but when a bomb suddenly appears at our borders, we really have to think of what to do.

"The Tamil problem is internal to Sr Lanka. We try to help to sort it out. We would like the Sri Lankans and the boys (Tamil separatists) to organize a meeting themselves, but they must sort out. We are already putting just about as much check as we can, we put very tight controls on weapons.

"Hegemony? Flatly no. There is a feeling because we are so much larger in the area. We will not do anything and I made it very clear to other leaders, and we will in fact try our best to behave in a manner to make them feel absolutely equal. Never Indian imperialism."

"The spy problem (with France) is over. I don't want to speak about it. The page is turned ... many contracts are under discussion now."

"The Sikh problem became a religious one. The manifestations have become religious although the problem itself did not start off as religious. They have been using religious places for propaganda, but it is very much political. Sikh extremists have not really told us what they want. We have asked them many times without preconditions as long as our discussions remain within the Constitution of India and within a united integral India.

"You will be surprised to know we had no act which we could use against somebody bombing a place or terrorising populations. So we have to bring an anti-terrorist act. As far as misusing the act is concerned, or overacting, any time we are finding about it we are going to take tough action, even against the police. The police has to be revamped, they need more powers, anti-smuggling for example. We need now to start some actions against drugs. Unless it is centrally controlled it is not going to work. We don't have a proper policy.

"Personally I think the center should have more powers. States are thinking too many things but rarely to India. I think that's bad. So we are going to change that. Otherwise you start to lose your integrity."

LE MONDE Interview

PM050915 Paris LE MONDE in French 4 Jun 85 pp 1,4

[Interview with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by Jacques Amalric and Patrice Claude in New Delhi on 30 May]

[Text] Question: You have been India's leader for 7 months. How are you adapting to your job?

Answer: I see no difference between this job and any other. Whatever you do, you should do it with the same conviction. Everything I have done in my life I have done wholeheartedly.

Question: Should any particular significance be attached to the fact that you chose the USSR for your first foreign visit?

Answer: No. I think the Soviets invited me first, that is all.

Question: What are your main domestic problems?

Answer: There are two kinds of problems: The first relates to our development, the second to political life. In a way they are connected, because without political stability there can be no sustained development. On the political level, we have the Sikh problem in Punjab. A few months ago there was reason to wonder whether the country was going to be broken up. We can now see that it has held firm. In a way it has even emerged stronger from the test. I think that we are making progress in Punjab. Things are probably moving slowly, but Akali Dal (the main Sikh party) has broken its silence for the first time, condemned some acts of violence, and has even had the courage to condemn the extremists. This is a positive step. I am optimistic, but it will take time....

Question: To commemorate the army's assault on the Golden Temple last June, the Sikhs have declared a "genocide week" starting this Monday. Do you expect sidespread disturbances?

Answer: Not really, but we are prepared for the worst.

Question: Will the Army remain in Punjab for a long time yet?

Answer: Until the situation returns to normal.... We had to face two problems there: first, that of terrorism, which has to be treated as such; and the second problem, which is political. Before the assault on the Golden Temple, the Sikh extremists were already terrorizing not only the population in general, but also the leaders of the Akali Dal party, who no longer dared lift a finger. That is why it is important that they are now speaking out and are no longer allowing themselves to be intimidated by threats.

The Shortcomings of the Police...[subhead]

Question: Are you not worried that you have to use the Army increasingly to restore order, and not only in Punjab?

Answer: Yes, we are using the Army much too often. This must stop. I am fundamentally opposed to it, and, moreover, so is the Army. It does not like it.

Question: Does this mean a full review of the way in which the police are run?

Answer: This poses a problem, because the police depend not on central government but on the state governments. We can only intervene indirectly, by trying to win over the competent authorities. Until recently we have never had such a law and order problem. We are suddenly having to face it, and we can see that our police are inadequate. We are considering the problem seriously.

Congress Party's Shortcomings [subhead]

Question: Why did you keep your post as leader of the Congress Party when you were elected prime minister?

Answer: You know, the party made me chairman and prime minister almost simultaneously: I had not asked for anything.

Question: But could you now give up the party chairmanship?

Answer: Yes. The first thing we are going to hold are elections within the party (Footnote 1) (There have been no elections in the Congress Party for 15 years. Indira Gandhi was in the habit of appointing the party's six general secretaries herself). I will continue to be chairman until then. After that the man chosen by the party will be chairman. Of course we must first restore order and revise our membership list. All the party structures have virtually collapsed. I hope that the reorganization will be completed before 31 December. We will start the election process 3 months later.

Question: The party really needs radical reform....

Answer: Definitely. People have rested on their laurels since the 1980 parliamentary elections. Many cadres have entered government, and there is no longer anybody to provide an impetus.

Question: What are your economic priorities?

Answer: Without going into detail, let us say that we started by establishing the foundations of a modern nation over the past 35 years. That was the first phase. It is over. We began to industrialize the country in the early fifties. We were strongly criticized for that, on the pretext that ours was primarily an agricultural country. Of course our critics were wrong. It was necessary to modernize, train managers, technicians, engineers, and a whole network of diversified industries.

Question: At the cost of abandoning socialism, as even some members of your party accuse you of doing?

Answer: Oh, you know, my grandfather (Nehru) was criticized in his day for moving away from Mahatma Gandhi's doctrine! What do people want? Do they want India to return to Gandhi's day in the sphere of industrialization? Of course it is not a question of deviating from his philosophical teachings. But, if we had followed our critics' advice in the agricultural sphere, we would not now be self-sufficient. We would be at Africa's level, with millions of people dying of starvation. Here we have suffered two or three major droughts over the past 5 or 6 years, and nobody suffered as a result. This was achieved by the mechanization of agriculture, the use of fertilizer, electrification, in short, by industrialization.

Opening the Nationalized Sector to Competition [subhead]

Question: So you are going to open up your economy to foreign countries?

Answer: That is a different matter. We want to achieve as much as we can ourselves. We have so far financed virtually all our development with our own resources. We do not want to upset our strategy.

Question: And yet you could borrow a great deal more?

Answer: Yes, but we do not want to face the repayment problems which some countries have. It is too dangerous. This does not mean that we do not need some foreign technologies. We are simply going to concentrate our requests in five or six particular areas which we want to develop more quickly. And we will turn to Eastern-bloc countries and to the West.

Question: People say that ideological concepts — the notions of right and left — are foreign to you.

Answer: These concepts now no longer have the same meaning. Your country, for instance, is right-wing....

Question: Mr Mitterrand is a socialist!

Answer: No, I mean your country is in the West. And yet you have a large nationalized sector. China, to take another example, claims to follow pure Marxism but is nonetheless introducing economic reforms considered somewhat incompatible with Marxism. Even the Soviet Union is thinking about ways of modernizing its industry. No, from the economic viewpoint the notions of the fifties and sixties are no longer valid. Even from the political viewpoint the West, which claims to be democratic, supports some of the worst dictatorships. But what matters to us is to know what is good for India. There is no question of prostituting ourselves, of borrowing here and there. Indeed, we have a very strong ideology.

Question: Is it socialist?

Answer: Yes, it is a socialism suited to India, to our national and individual character. Indians are very individualistic. They cannot be herded together, as is done in some Eastern and Asian countries. Hinduism is our dominant religion, but, as you know, we do not even pray together.

Question: Do you pray?

Answer: No, I do not pray.... All this shows you that we are not in the habit of adopting very clearcut viewpoints; we adapt. It is

both good and bad. But we must take account of it in everything we do. Essentially we Indians only work to obtain what is strictly necessary. We do not have the appetite for accumulation which is found in Western or Eastern Europe.

This is one of our major development problems. How can we get people moving and encourage them to take initiatives...?

The Population of Australia Every Year [subhead]

Question: Are you going to continue the policy started by your mother in the demographic sphere?

Answer: No, I think we must do much more than has been done hitherto. We have reduced the growth rate, but it is still much too high. Do you realize that we produce the equivalent of the population of Australia every year!

Question: What is your view of the Soviet Union? Do you regard it as a model, or as the enemy of your enemy, namely China?

Answer: No, not at all. Moreover, I do not regard any country as an enemy. Not even Pakistan. I think we can have good relations with that country. Our two nations would greatly benefit if we could end our frictions. Not only would we be able to save on arms purchases, but we could do so many things together....That is why we are now focusing our diplomacy on South Asia.

To return to the USSR, we have two approaches: One is geopolitical, the other economic. What can we learn about their economic system? It undoubtedly has some very good aspects. But it is impossible to govern India other than by democracy. The country would break up. We can learn from them, but we cannot copy their system.

What Is Southwest Asia? [subhead]

Question: Why do you think the Soviets intervened in Afghanistan?

Answer: I think they thought the Americans were going to take advantage of the situation, and they could not accept that kind of risk.

Question: How can you condemn the U.S. policy in Central America so strongly and take such an understanding attitude to the Soviet Union in Afghanistan?

Answer: We were as firm on Nicaragua as on Afghanistan. We have condemned all foreign interference wherever it took place. We are not understanding about Afghanistan. If you read the joint communique issued at the end of my visit to Moscow, you will see that we were very firm on Southwest Asia.

Question: But the communique does not even mention Afghanistan.

Answer: Yes, it does mention it. Southwest Asia is Afghanistan. (laughter)

Question: However, do you not think that your diplomacy could be more active on this question?

Answer: We took an initiative in the early eighties, but Pakistan rejected our offer and told us not to interfere in this affair. In our view, however, the problem cannot be solved between the superpowers. It must be solved between Afghanistan and Pakistan. If necessary we are willing to become more involved.

Question: Are you afraid of Pakistan's being destabilized by the USSR?

Answer: The Soviets do not like what is now happening in Pakistan in the least. They have made this very clear on numerous occasions. Moreover, we would not like to see the start of a conflict which would probably bring in the United States. That would be very dangerous.

Question: Are you worried by the possible improvement in relations between Moscow and Beijing?

Answer: No. We want them to improve. We would also like our relations with China to improve. But, in both cases, obstacles remain. In our case, at least, it will be a long process. Our border problems with China go back to 1962.

Question: When you were elected, did the West hope to see you bring your country closer to it, because you studied in the West and married a Westerner...?

Answer: I think that we have always had a balanced position between East and West and that we will maintain it.

Pakistan and the Bomb [subhead]

Question: Do you think Pakistan already has nuclear weapons? If so, what will be your response?

Answer: Yes, we think that they are very close to having one, or that they already have one. In fact, more than one.... We for our part have not yet taken any decision. But we are thinking about it. You must understand that for India it is very worrying that Pakistan should have a nuclear weapon. Islamabad has already attacked us three times. The fact that they had the bomb would therefore change all the rules of the game. We must think about this seriously. In principle we are opposed to the idea of becoming a nuclear power. We could have done so for the past 10 or 11 years, but we have not. If we decided to become a nuclear power, it would only take a few weeks or a few months.

Question: Are you contemplating this?

Answer: Not yet.

Question: Are you then envisaging a preemptive attack on the Pakistani nuclear installations?

Answer: We are trying not to behave like some other countries....

Question: Are you thinking of Israel?

Answer: I am not mentioning any names.

Quesiton: Will you one day establish diplomatic relations with Jerusalem?

Answer: Yes, if Israel changes its attitude on a number of subjects. For the time being we think that they are very belligerent and do not take account of the problems posed. We understand their problems, but until they change their attitude I cannot see peace being established in that region.

Quesiton: Let us return to your defense policy: Will you or will you not take the decision to produce nuclear weapons?

Answer: We have not yet reached a decision, but we have already worked on it.

Question: Will it be a personal or a government decision?

Answer: The decision will be taken by the cabinet.

Question: Will it be published?

Answer: It will be a secret decision.

Question: To return to Pakistan, your mother was in the habit of blaming foreign countries for a number of Indian problems. You do not do so.

Answer: Yes I do; I condemn this interference, but I think it is up to me to control it. It is up to us to prevent these foreign hands from stirring up trouble in the country, and we will do so.

Question: Is Pakistan helping the separatist Sikhs in Punjab?

Answer: We know that it is doing so. The action taken by these foreign forces varies: It ranges from aid to a particular candidate on behalf of a particularly ideology to much more subversive acts.

Question: Are these supported at government level?

Answer: Well, we know where the people are trained, how they are trained, who trains them, and from what units the advisers come.

Question: Why not make this information public?

Answer: We do not want to compromise our sources.

Toward a United Sri Lanka [subhead]

Question: You are due to meet the Sri Lankan president on Sunday (Footnote 2) (It should be remembered that this interview was granted before the meeting with President Jayewardene) to try to reach agreement on the Tamil question. What will you say to him, particularly with regard to the separatists based in Madras, who expect India to recognize the validity of their separatist demands?

Answer: We have already categorically stated that we would never support the creation of an independent Tamil state in Sri Lanka. I say this publicly and very clearly, and I have already made this known to the Colombo government. Ultimately the Sri Lankan Tamils will have to live in Sri Lanka.

Question: In a united state?

Answer: Yes, in a united Sri Lanka. We advise against any autonomy which goes beyond what we recognize for the different states in India.

Do you know how big Sri Lanka is? It is tiny. Into how many pieces can it be cut? We have often drawn the Sri Lanka authorities' attention to the situation of their Tamils in the past. If they could offer them a series of measures based on our solutions for the minorities, I am sure they would accept.

Question: One thing the Sri Lankans do not understand is why you do not control the "boys" who are responsible for the fighting there, using India as a base....

Answer: We are doing so, but it is impossible to control them 100 percent. We are not succeeding in doing that with Pakistan either. There are limits to what we can do. We recently confiscated $4 million worth of arms.

Question: Was that the first time?

Answer: No, it was not the first time, but there are some things which we do not shout from the rooftops. We do not want to have political problems in Tamil Nadu (a state in southern India where 40 million Tamils live) either. We are walking a tightrope, but we must do so. However, every time the Sri Lankan security forces attack Tamil civilians, they make our task even more difficult. All the information we have shows that the Sri Lankan forces are attacking not terrorists but civilians. Indeed, there are two kinds of terrorism in action in that country: that of the Sri Lankan forces losing their cool, and the other kind.

Spies 95-Percent Pardoned [subhead]

Question: It is time to turn to the case of the French "spies" expelled from India last January....

Answer: We consider that case closed.

Question: Is it true to say that your reaction — the request for the French ambassador to be recalled — was exaggerated?

Answer: No, I do not think so. The decision we took was not only based on the spy affair. There were other incidents before that.

Question: What kind of incident?

Answer: I do not think it would be useful to go back over this affair.

Question: Have you forgiven and forgotten?

Answer: It is difficult to forgive and forget completely. Let us say that it has been 95-percent forgotten....

Question: But why did you not take similar measures with regard to the Eastern-bloc diplomats implicated in the same affair?

Answer: As I told you, there had previously been other incidents in which the French were involved.

Question: But to what incidents are you referring?

Answer: I think this should remain a matter between the French Government and us.

Question: Does this mean that economic relations between the two countries have returned to what they were before this whole affair?

Answer: Yes.

Question: So will there be contracts signed with the French enterprises before your departure for Paris?

Answer: I do not know yet. A considerable number of things still have to be decided. We will probably take a final decision before our departure.

Question: Will you take a decision on the 27 helicopters?

Answer: Yes, definitely.

Question: Is France in a good position to win this contract?

Answer: You will have to wait and see.

Against 'Star Wars' [subhead]

Question: Have you met Mr Mitterrand before, and what political subjects do you plan to discuss with him?

Answer: Yes, I have met him, but I have never had detailed discussions with him. With regard to political problems, we have a considerable number of bilateral questions to discuss. In particular, we think that we buy a large number of French products but that you do not buy enough from us. In some cases we are encountering protectionist attitudes. As I have said, we have a great deal in common with France. I think there was also always a long-standing friendship between the French people and my mother. I think, therefore, that we can do a great deal together in the economic sphere. We have been buying arms from you for a long time. I even think that the first foreign plane we bought was French. I think it was the Mystere, and today we have the Mirage-2000 planes. We would like to discuss some major international problems like disarmament and "star wars." We think that this military program is likely to add a new dimension to nuclear war and further complicate the disarmament question. People are now saying that it is a defensive program, but it could become offensive in the future.

LE FIGARO Interview on Nuclear Issue

PM051139 Paris LE FIGARO in French 4 Jun 85 p 3

[Interview with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by Nathalie Blime in New Delhi — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: The special relations which exist between India and France are recent. What were the factors which determined the establishment of these relations?

Answer: I think that the main reason stems from our history, the way in which we won our independence and developed the concepts which form the basis of our policy. India is fundamentally opposed to all military pacts; we think that every country ought to be able to define its policy in complete independence. Although France is a NATO member, it shows its individuality within that alliance. It dissociates itself from the alliance when it deems that necessary and does not bow to other people's decisions. That is why India and France have independent and similar positions on many questions.

Question: Which questions?

Answer: On many international problems. To take just one example: Nicaragua. India and France think that the United States should lift the trade embargo on Nicaragua.

Question: What do you think of France's position at the Bonn summit?

Answer: In a way the French supported the position we adopted in the United Nations some time ago, and we are pleased because we advocate a reform of the international economic situation and a restructuring of world trade.

Question: Are you satisfied with relations between India and the EC?

Answer: Relations between India and the EEC are not close enough. We ought to strengthen them. We must examine ways of achieving this, because there are major opportunities for cooperation between India and the EEC, particularly in the sphere of advanced technology, which Europe is capable of procuring for us.

Question: The U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO is a challenge to the organization's universal character and to the whole UN system. India has always been a fervent supporter of UNESCO; Why? What can India and France do together to take up this challenge?

Answer: We think that all international organizations have a major role. UNESCO has done very good work and, for that reason, needs to be supported. It would be a good thing for the French to succeed in persuading the Americans to remain in the organization. I will discuss this with Mr Mitterrand when I am in France.

Question: India has difficult relations with all its neighbors. However, your election aroused great hopes on the Subcontinent.

Do you think that a breakthrough is possible? Is South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC] the answer?

Answer: A breakthrough is undoubtedly possible, and I am optimistic about all the countries around us. I do not know whether the SARC is the answer because the SARC is still too young, and we do not know how it is going to develop. We want it to be strengthened and become more active.

Question: Do you think the SARC can become an independent economic entity like the EEC?

Answer: No. We cannot consider that at present. The EEC has its own parliament, and I do not think that is possible for the SARC, because the countries have very different political structures: dictatorship, monarchy, democracies.

Question: What is the state of relations between India and Pakistan?

Answer: There are some positive points. I have met with President Zia twice, and we had detailed and friendly talks. I also had a good discussion with the Pakistani foreign minister, and I think we can do a great deal to improve our relations. There are two major problems: the Pakistani nuclear program and the acquisition by Islamabad of highly sophisticated weapons. But the two problems are not on the same level, because we can also acquire military equipment, but we would not like to become a nuclear power.

Question: Not even if Pakistan does?

Answer: Even if Pakistan does, I do not think we should [devrions] do likewise. It is a question which will be discussed in the country so that a decision can be made.

Espionage? It Is Behind Us [subhead]

Question: You told parliament that Pakistan was near to having the bomb and could already have one. Will this not force India to review its nuclear policy, willingly or unwillingly?

Answer: Not ncessarily. I am not saying no categorically, but let us say we would prefer not to have to change our policy.

Question: Islamabad recently proposed a mutual inspection program. What is your position?

Answer: You have seen the mutual inspection program between the USSR and the United States. Despite inspection, they do not trust each other. There are too many gaps in the inspection programs, and it is very difficult to know what is really happening. A mutual inspection program can be a partial solution, no more than that. A change of atmosphere and more understanding and confidence are needed.

Question: Finally, prime minister, is the espionage affair behind us, or does its shadow still hang over relations between France and India?

Answer: Let us hope it is behind us.

Gandhi Visits Egypt, Holds Talks With Mubarak

For reportage on the 2-day visit to Egypt by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi beginning 5 June and his meetings with President Husni Mubarak over the Palestinian issue and events in the Gulf war, please see the Egypt section of the 5 June Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Andhra Pradesh Police Fire Kills 1, Injures 5

BK041635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, one person died and five others injured when police opened fire on an unruly mob in (Maratalu) of Mahabubnagar District. They were agitating for a change of mandal [district] headquarters. It may be recalled that the state government recently formed mandals by reorganizing the present revenue taluks [land estates].

'Extremists' Kill Eight in Tripura Village

BK050846 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] In Tripura, armed extremists killed eight women and children and seriously injured two others in a village under (Kamalaseragaon Sabha) in North Tripura District yesterday. According to police, 20 extremists stormed into 2 houses and killed these people. They are also reported to have kidnapped a boy. An additional police contingent has been rushed to the spot.

Akali Chief's Meeting With Governor Denied

BK050317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, reviewed the law and order situation in Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh with senior officials in Chandigarh yesterday. According to an official spokesman, steps being taken to control terrorist activities were reviewed.

A spokesman of the Punjab Raj Bhawan [Governor's House] has described the reported statement of Akali leader Mr Randhir Singh Chima alleging a secret meeting between the Punjab governor and the Akali Dal chief Sant Longowal as a figment of imagination and totally baseless. A senior Akali leader and former lieutenant governor of Goa, Mr Pratap Singh Gil, has also criticized the statement of Mr Chima and described it as cheap and undignified.

The president of the Shiromani Gurdware Prabandhak [Sikh Temples Management] Committee, Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra, also termed it as childish and malicious. He told newsmen that Mr Longowal agreed to continue to lead the Akali Dal following a directive from district party jathedar [group leader].

615 Afghan Air Intrusions Reported Since 1979

BK041528 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, told the National Assembly during the question hour that Afghan aircraft have violated Pakistani territory 615 times since 1979. So far 83 protests have been lodged in this connection with the Karmal authorities.

Zia Leaves for Dhaka With 'High-Level' Delegation

BK050529 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] President General Mohammmad Ziaul Haq left Islamabad for Dhaka this morning to personally express sympathy with the brotherly people of Bangladesh on behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan over the massive loss of lives and property due to recent cyclonic storms in Bangladesh. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, two senators — Khan Fida Mohammad Khan and Professor Khurshid Ahmad — and four members of the national and provincial assemblies — Hamid Raza Gilani, Ahmad Nawaz Bugti, Ghulam Mohammad Mahar, and Pir Sabir Shah. The president is leading the delegation himself in view of the special brotherly ties between the two countries.

Pakistan has already donated relief goods and materials worth 10 million rupees for the affected people. The first consignment of relief goods was dispatched to Bangladesh by a special plane yesterday.

Junejo on Procedures for Lifting Martial Law

BK041623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Excerpts] The National Assembly this morning set up a 29-member special committee to go into the question of the future political structure in the country.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo announced in the National Assembly this morning that he will recommend to the president the lifting of martial law as soon as the bill to this effect is adopted by the National Assembly and the senate, which will be meeting next month. He said:

[Begin Junejo recording] I said in a separate statement in this house when I was given a vote of confidence that the martial law and the civil administration cannot go together for long in the country, [applause] and we have to take correct measures to rid the country of martial law. I want to assure the members here on my behalf that I am still fully committed to what I said on the first day of this house. [Applause] However, there are some procedures. As far as the matter of political parties in the country is concerned, they are banned. Unless and until there is a political structure in the country, it will not be that easy to run the country after the lifting of martial law. That is why we thought to appoint a house committee on political structure and (?ask) this committee to give us correct proposals regarding the political structure within 2 weeks. [Applause] When the recommendations of this committee come before us, then our Ministry for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs will have the responsibility of preparing them in the form of a bill. The current session of the house is the budget session; after the budget session concludes, we will call a session of the National Assembly in July and present this bill. After that the bill will be presented to the Senate as well. As soon as the bill is passed in the National Assembly and the Senate, we will recommend to the president of Pakistan to immediately lift martial law. [end recording]

HAIDAR Comments on Closing Border With India

GF041706 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 31 May 85 P 3

[Editorial: "The New Plan of the Sikh Terrorists"]

[Text] According to reports, the Indian Government has closed its borders near Rajasthan, Punjab, and Occupied Kashmir in order to prevent any expected violence by the Sikhs. This is allegedly to foil all attempts by Sikhs to escape to Pakistan. The Sikhs have announced their intention to observe "genocide week" beginning from 1 June a year after the sacking of the Darbar Sahib Temple at Amritsar by the armed forces. According to some reports the Sikh terrorists had decided to kill the prominent Hindu leaders and to blow up important installations.

The Indian Government has taken stringent security measures ever since this announcement by the Sikhs. Certain areas of the Punjab are under strict survillance and a vigilant eye is being kept on the movements of the Sikh extremists. In any case, to say that the Sikh terrorists enter Pakistan while escaping is a complete lie. Even though the Indian Government had carried out operations against the Sikhs earlier, there has not been a case of a single Sikh escaping to Pakistan and there has never been evidence of Pakistan harboring any Sikh terrorists in the past; nor has Pakistan displayed any interest in any Sikh campaigns. Pakistan's stance has always been that there should be no interference in another's affairs. Despite this, the Indian Government continues to make such accusations against Pakistan for political interests, saying that Pakistan is involved in the Sikh movement. Even recently during his tour of the Soviet Union, the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi repeated these accusations and the closure of the frontiers near Rajasthan, Punjab, and Occupied Kashmir came about on the basis of this supposition.

We have no objection to the closure of the Indian borders and the Indian Government has every right to take steps to tackle terrorism. We expect that with the closing of the borders, there will be an end to such accusations. Such accusations are in fact the real cause for strained relations between the two countries and if the Indian Government is truly desirous of cordial relations, then it will have to revise its attitude.

NEPAL

Journalists, Congress Leaders Arrested

HK041520 Hong Kong AFP in English 1433 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] Katmandu, June 4 (AFP) — Police have arrested at least 13 Nepalese journalists including seven newspaper editors and publishers over the past two weeks, a spokesman for the Nepal Journalists' Association said today. Twelve others were being sought for arrest, the spokesman said.

Most of the journalists have been served with detention orders under the security act, while four newspapers are being charged under the state offense act, the spokesman said. At least 13 have been arrested over the past two weeks, including seven newspaper editors and publishers, the spokesman said.

An official source said that most of the arrested editors and journalists were strong supporters of the leftist camp. The source said they had been charged for fanning a political movement launched by outlawed pro-democrat and pro-leftist political factions during the past fortnight.

The banned Nepali Congress launched a peaceful civil disobedience movement on May 23, demanding the dissolution of the partyless panchayat system and the revival of the parliamentary system of government.

A week later six factions of the banned Nepal Communist Party took to the streets, supporting the Congress action and holding public rallies and meetings in defiance of an official ban on picketing or holding street corner meetings.

The official source said about 1,000 activists and leaders of the Nepali Congress have been arrested in the past two weeks but party sources claimed that over 5,000 of their activists including some students were taken into custody throughout the country. A left-wing political source maintained that more than 300 communist activists were also arrested.

SRI LANKA

TULF Leader Welcomes Statement on Tamil Issue

BK050354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, has underlined the importance of a political solution to end the ethnic problem in the country. Addressing a special session of the government parliamentary group in Colombo yesterday, he rejected any military solution to the problem. He urged the people of Sri Lanka to be patient while new measures are being taken. These measures will be based on the talks he had with the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, he added.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Buddhist leaders at a meeting in Colombo yesterday decided to urge the president to find an urgent political solution to the ethnic problem. The meeting called upon the government not to impose martial law or to create auxiliary forces outside the regular army in the country's troubled eastern province.

The Tamil United Liberation Front secretary general, Mr Amirthalingam, has welcomed the joint statement of India and Sri Lanka on the Tamils' issue at the end of the recent visit of President Jayewardene to New Delhi. In a statement in Madras, he said a solution to the ethnic problem acceptable to all concerned should be found.

AFP: Buses, 98 People Reported Missing in North

NC042043 Paris AFP in English 2038 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] Colombo, June 4 (AFP) — Two buses with 90 passengers and eight crew members aboard were reported missing near the Sri Lankan town of Rambewa 170 Kilometers north of Colombo, usually reliable sources said today.

There was no official confirmation of the report, but private transport company sources said all other buses travelling south from the country's far north had been told to turn back before they reached the Rambewa area today.

Rambewa is in the country's north central province some 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the sacred Buddhist city of Anuradhapura where 150 Sinhalese civilians were massacred last May 14th. The sources said most of the bus passengers were Tamils.

Militant Tamil separatists have stepped up terrorist activity in Sri Lanka to press their demands for a separate state for the country's Tamil minority.

Yesterday morning 13 Tamils were killed in a bus ambush in the country's eastern province. The government today confirmed the incident and said another eight were injured.

Unidentified Gunmen Shoot Dead 13 on Bus

BK050209 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] Some terrorists fired on a bus at about 3 km from the Sri Lankan city of Trincomalee in the early hours of morning recently, killing 13 people and injuring 9 others. The report received in our office said the identity of the gunmen is not yet known, but they were in civilian dress.

Khomeyni Pardons Prisoners in Several Cities

LD041159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, on the eve of Jerusalem Day, 5 June, a number of ordinary prisoners of Behshahr Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office have been pardoned by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They have been released from prison.

On the same occasion, a number of ordinary prisoners of the Islamic Revolution Prosecutors' offices of Torbat-e Heydariye, Kashmar, and Gonabad were also pardoned by the imam of the ummah and released from prison. Also, the sentences of a number of other prisoners of the Islamic Revolution Prosecutors' Offices were reduced.

Velayati Sends Message to UN About Iraqi Bombing

LD041757 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] Following the resumption of attacks on our country's populated regions by the Iraqi regime a message was sent to the UN secretary general by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Velayati.

The message reads:

Your Excellency Senor Xavier Perez de Cuellar, I am confident that your excellency has seen the recent reports by the UN mission of experts stationed in Tehran. You know that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to halt as soon as possible this regrettable state of events, by delaying and giving sufficient opportunity to the competent international authorities to carry out the tasks entrusted to their care by the world community, has embarked on limited retaliatory measures. However, recent experience has shown that the Iraqi regime does not attach even the least importance to the lives of Iraqi citizens.

Another part of this message, referring to the fact that the political and arms support given to the Iraqi regime by certain countries is paving the way for the continuation of Iraq's inhumane crimes, reads: The competent international authorities, particularly the United Nations, cannot take Iraq's indifference to these authorities' past requests and reminders — particularly with regard to observing international rules — as justification for their present silence. The United Nations is now facing a sensitive history-making experiment which will demonstrate to what extent that organization, as an important international authority, is capable of carrying out its minimum duty and, by implementing international laws, is capable of safeguarding world peace and security.

According to this report, similar messages were sent by Mr Velayati to the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement and the secretary general of the Islamic Conference.

Envoy Karrubi Visits Beirut, Southern Lebanon

LD041209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Excerpts] Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Martyrs Foundation, who is visiting Lebanon at the head of a high-ranking delegation, met with many Islamic figures in Beirut and conveyed greetings from the people and officials of the Islamic Republic and from Grand Ayatollah Montazeri to the Muslim Lebanese people. He then stressed the need for the presence of the ulema on the political scene and the people's support for them. The meeting took place last night at the Lebanese ulema congregation's meeting house.

According to reports from Beirut, Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of the militant Lebanese clergymen, emphasized the sacred goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the significance attached to such goals by Muslims. He said: Only the solidarity and unity of the Islamic ulema can foil provocations. We must adopt a united stance against any plot aimed at creating divisions and fanning the flames of conflict between the various religions.

According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, the Iranian delegation has now left for southern Lebanon to inspect the liberated villages. The delegation is to hold talks with Islamic ulema in the region on ways of ending local conflicts. Karrubi is to make a speech at Imam Reza Mosque in southern Beirut this afternoon on plots hatched by Israel and by global arrogance to deal a blow to Muslim unity.

Air Force Commander on Air Defense Missile System

LD041241 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Colonel Seddiq, commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met this morning with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, and submitted a report about this force's combat readiness, especially that of the high-flying pilots of the Air Force.

Following this meeting the Air Force commander said in an interview concerning the missile fired at a violating Iraqi aircraft last night: Recently the Air Force has made considerable technical advances in the air defense missile system, which has considerably enhanced our defense capability, an example of which was seen by a large number of our Tehran compatriots last night in the successful launching of a ground-to-air missile.

Concerning the failure to use conventional air defense last night, the Air Force commander said: Our air defense includes the stages of identification, reconnaissance and destruction of enemy aircraft. The radar's work consists of identification, reconnaissance and tracing of enemy aircraft; and the weapons [as heard] used consist of fighter-bombers equipped with air-to-air missiles and machineguns. Second, we have the ground-to-air missile system and anti-aircraft guns. In view of enemy tactics and in view of the experiences which we have gained in the sphere of air defense, we make use of these various weapons in response to

enemy tactics. In other words, at the appropriate times and depending on enemy tactics any necessary weapon will be employed in accordance with the judgment of experts. When silence is maintained our compatriots should not imagine that the air defense personnel are not acting in accordance with their duties.

In conclusion Col Seddiq added: Our compatriots should know that a large number of enemy aircraft are deployed against Tehran but as a result of the timely defense our fighter planes force the enemy aircraft to flee before reaching the city's air space. Sometimes one of them enters the city's air space and fires some missiles. At the moment the self-sacrificing Air Force personnel deliver frightful blows at the enemy in retaliation for any aggressive acts by the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime.

Continuing Reportage, Comment on War Activities

Joint Staff Communique

LD041746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] According to a report from the Armed Forces Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during yesterday and today artillery units of the victorious forces of Islam shelled military targets and economic and industrial installations in the cities of Khanaqin, Naft Khaneh, Mandali, Dhu Shaykh, Badrah, Al-Zurbatiyah, Warmahraz, Basra, Abu al-Khasib, and Al-Zubayr with their intense fire in retaliation for the Iraqi shelling of our country's cities. As a result of this shelling, the enemy suffered heavy losses and casualties.

In the Joint Staff communique, while honoring the anniversary of 15 Khordad [5 June anniversary of the 1963 uprising] and while offering congratulations and condolences to the imam of the ummah, the great leader of the revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to the entire martyr-nurturing compatriots and the selfless combatants of the battlefronts of the war of justice against injustice, it is said: During the past 24 hours, fire exchange continued in the country's northwestern operational sector, in the Hajj 'Umran and Sar Dasht fronts. The mighty warriors of Islam, while completely destroying several group bunkers and observation posts and two vehicles, inflicted some losses and casualties on the feeble Ba'thist enemy.

In the country's western operational sector, intense fire from the warriors of the army of monotheism destroyed 12 group bunkers and foxholes, four observation posts, three vehicles, and one 106 mm gun, and killed or wounded 31 of the mercenaries.

In the southern operational sector, fire exchange continued between our units and the enemy. It was more intense in the Nahr 'Anbar, south of Kushk, and Hoseyniyeh regions and as a result the enemy suffered some losses and casualties.

In the Arvand River sector, our gendarmerie warriors, while defending their own positions, opened intense fire, destroying several group bunkers and one vehicle of the Saddamist forces and annihilating a number of their troops.

As a result of the enemy's mortar fire, 10 residential houses were damaged in Abadan yesterday.

Iraqi Jet Crashes

LD042009 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA — One Iraqi intruding jet bomber which was hit over Tehran Monday night crash landed in Al-Kut region in Iraq's Wasit Province, a reliable military source said Tuesday.

The source confirmed Tehran residents' observation who saw three Iraqi intruding bombers over the capital Monday night and said two of the Iraqi bombers returned to their base. "Our information indicates that only two of the three planes returned to their base and the third was hit by Iranian antiaircraft defense grid and the pilot managed to fly the plane into Iraq and then crash in Al-Kut region," the source added.

Independent reports from the Iranian city of Borujerd said a few minutes after the Monday night Iraqi air raid against Tehran, Borujerd residents saw a plane on fire flying over the city.

The reaction of the Iraqi regime is also interpreted by qualified analysts to indicate that they lost one plane Monday night. A military communique issued in Baghdad on Monday's Tehran air raid said only two planes had participated in the attack on Tehran and that they both had returned home safely. In the past the Iraqi regime never used to say exactly how many bombers had taken part in air raids against Tehran.

A large number of Tehran residents Monday night saw for themselves an Iraqi bomber flying away from the capital with smoke bellowing from its tail section.

Planes Over Tabriz, Esfahan

LD042051 Tehran IRNA in English 1959 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA — Iraqi planes Tuesday bombed the city of Tabriz but failed to raid Esfahan because of heavy antiaircraft, foreign reports reaching here said.

The extent of the damages of Tabriz is not yet known. The planes came at [time indistinct]. The raid on Esfahan was ten minutes earlier. The fleeing planes dropped their bombs outside the city.

Two Killed in Tehran Raid

GF050454 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Unit, at around 0415 today [0045 GMT], two aircraft belonging to the Iraqi aggressor regime violated Tehran's air space. As a result of rockets fired by them on a residential area, two people were martyred while seven others received superficial injuries. They were treated and released. We would like to note that at 0700 [0330 GMT] the number of martyrs had been reported as one.

Attack in Hawr al-Hawizah Region

GF050508 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam Al-Anbiya' Headquarters, the warriors of Islam attacked enemy forces near (Delaleh) post on dry land in the Hawr al-Hawizah region and while liberating the area managed to kill or wound dozens of Iraqis. A number of others were captured. The same report adds that the enemy forces attempted a counteroffensive yesterday morning to recapture the area but were defeated due to the opposition of the forces of Islam. The Iraqi forces, suffering further losses and damage, were forced to retreat.

SAIRI Statement on Iraqi Attacks

GF042012 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Text] Following the resumption of attacks by the Saddamist Ba'thist Zionist regime against the cities of Muslim Iran, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] issued a statement affirming the necessity of continuing the war until final victory and toppling the Iraqi agent regime. The statement referred to the escalation of crimes by the regime of Saddam 'Aflaqi in the region.

It affirmed that the region will not be stable as long as Saddam leads Iraq. It also affirmed that the continuation of the war in order to topple the Iraqi regime is a legitimate and Islamic duty to save Muslims from the evil deeds of the one who began the war.

SAIRI called on all Islamic Iraqi people to participate in the war fronts beside the Muslims fighters in their determination to continue the war which has been waged by the Muslim fighters until the final victory.

The statement affirmed that any political project aimed at toppling [word indistinct] great colonial plot against Islam and Muslims.

It affirmed that the international circles which call for defending the Saddam regime are trying to continue the unjust aggression against the Iraqi and Iranian Muslim people and all the Muslim people in the region.

SAIRI called on the defenders of Saddam at the regional and international arena to stop supporting the Saddam regime, because all indications show that the life of this regime is getting shorter, and that the Iraqi people [words indistinct] and to establish the rule of justice in their country.

Artillery Hits Iraqi Cities

LD051019 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov. June 5 IRNA — A vast area of an industrial centre in Basra between the regions of Al-Ashar, Al-Khandaq and Al-Najibah caught fire Tuesday afternoon due to the artillery fire of Iran's Islamic combatants upon the city. The smoke caused by the fire was seen for several hours from a relatively long distance.

Meanwhile, the staff of the Basra governor general's office, other government organisations and security officials have fled the city to remain safe from artillery fire of Islamic combatants. This is while the Iraqi security forces previously prevented the exodus of the people from the city.

The Islamic combatants have also targetted their fire mainly upon industrial and military installations as well as strategic bridges in this city.

In retaliation to blind Iraqi air raids upon Iranian cities, the Iranian artillery zeroed in on Basra, Abu Khatib, Al-Faw, Al-Tannumah, Al-Zubayr, Al-Ziyadiyah, Sayhan, Al-Du'ayb and Al-Qurnah in south of Iraq Wednesday. Losses were inflicted upon the economic, industrial and military installations in these cities.

More on Artillery Attacks

LD051100 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Prov, June 5 IRNA — Iran's artillery units pounded Iraqi military industrial and economic installations in Khanaqin, Mandali, Al-Zurbatiyah, Badrah, Warmahraz, Naft Khanih and Dhu Shaykhan during the past 24 hours. Sky over these cities were covered with smoke due to the shelling.

Meanwhile exchange of fire continued in Bakhtaran and Ilam front during the same period and engineering activities of the enemy forces were halted by the Islamic forces. Also 31 Iraqi troops were killed and wounded and 13 of their individual and group bunkers, 4 observation posts, 3 vehicles, and two 106 mm guns were destroyed.

Mashhad on Montazeri Call for Afghan Muslim Unity

GF041852 Mashhad International Service in Dari 1430 GMT 4 Jun 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The revolt of Muslims in Afghanistan in the beginning was based on unity and solidarity among Muslims and free from differences and group struggles.

As the Islamic holy war in Afghanistan grew, internal and external elements acted to prevent the rapid success of the mujahidin and sowed the seeds of dissent among Muslims. By creating differences and even civil wars among Muslims in Afghanistan, they choked in their throats the right and just cries for freedom.

Group differences are an issue which is given special attention by both the friends and the enemies of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan.

To solve this problem a hand has to be raised and a great man, trusted by all Muslim masses and trusted by the Muslims and the fighting groups of Afghanistan, has to start a call for unity. In other words the mujahidin and other Muslim armed groups in Afghanistan, to reach a lasting and complete unity, must have a leader who is capable and wise and who will call to unity the groups and the militant clergy in Afghanistan. Now this call for unity and this invitation has started from Qom, from the revered person and wise leader Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

In a meeting with clergymen and militant clergy and officials of the Muslim groups of Afghanistan in Qom, he told them: Today the hope of the people of Afghanistan lies in you, the dedicated and militant clergy. It is your religious duty as Muslim groups and militant clergy to try to gather all struggling forces of Afghan Muslims both Shi'ite and Sunni, free from any group differences and different polarizations around a unified position.

Fortunately after this meeting and invitation a new movement started among the clergy and various Muslim groups in Afghanistan, who are residing in Iran. Statements have been published by these groups which indicate an acceptance of this invitation.

SAIRI Reports Iraqi Kurdish Operations

GF050612 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Jun 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Kurds who oppose the Iraqi regime have carried out a number of mining and ambush operations, thus stopping the activities of Saddam's army aimed at crushing the Muslim people of northern Iraq.

In reporting this news, the office of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq added: As a result these operations which took place in ('Umumin) and (Saydakan), a number of Iraqi vehicles were destroyed and more than 20 Saddamists were killed and a number of others were wounded. Mines detonated at the (?Diyanah-Marj-i Sut) axis killed a number of security officials in the area.

According to the same report, following these operations the Zionist forces of Iraq started firing at villages in this region.